



**Bell**  
LABORATORIES, INC.

# THE BELL REPORT

International  
Edition

VOLUME 18 | NUMBER 1 | JANUARY-MARCH 2015



## GALÁPAGOS Giant Pinzón Tortoises Returning



Photo credit: James Gibbs

**T**wo years after conservationists successfully carried out an aerial rodenticide bait drop on the Galápagos Archipelago, the island is showing signs of recovery in the form of 10 newly hatched Pinzón tortoises. These baby giant tortoises are the first known to have survived in the wild in over 150 years.

The recent finding is a hopeful step forward in the ongoing effort to help the critically endangered species that once teetered on the edge of extinction because of a rat infestation on the island.

### Rat Eradication on Pinzón

Rodents are one of the most serious threats to the endemic species of the Galápagos Is-

lands. Rats prey on the eggs and hatchlings of birds and reptiles, and threaten fauna and native flora.

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The population of Giant Pinzón Tortoises was almost wiped out by invasive rodents.

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Over the past 40 years, small-scale control efforts targeted rodent populations in specific regions on the islands. In 2012, Bell Laboratories manufactured and donated pelleted bait for aerial baiting, designed to attract only rats. Bell's specialized island conservation rodenticide was designed to attract rats and to rid the

Baby giant tortoises from Pinzón, not seen in over 150 years.

island of these invaders, thus saving endangered species and helping to focus a global spotlight on threatened wildlife populations. This was the first step in a planned 20 to 25-year process designed to rid the Galápagos Islands of non-native rats and mice for good.

Called the largest rat eradication in South America, the project is supported by the Galápagos National Park, California-based Island Conservation, the Charles Darwin Foundation,

*Continued on back page*



# New **PROTECTA® EVO® MOUSE™**

## *Bait Station now available in Europe*

**R**ounding out its line of tamper-resistant Protecta EVO bait stations, Bell Laboratories introduces its new premium mouse bait station to European distributors - Protecta EVO MOUSE.

Building on the versatility of Bell's triangular RTU Mouse Bait Station, an industry staple, the new Protecta EVO MOUSE takes mouse bait stations "a step further," noted Bell's product manager, Kate Mella.

"We designed Protecta EVO MOUSE with PMPs in mind, giving them a larger mouse bait station that can be serviced quickly for faster results," she pointed out.

### Larger Station – More Bait Options

The versatile Protecta EVO MOUSE is designed to give PMPs a choice in bait to use - either BLOX or soft bait. The station's increased bait storage capacity holds two BLOX of bait so more mice can feed from a single station. If PMPs choose soft bait to control mice, EVO MOUSE is equipped with bait rods that hold soft bait sachets securely in the station. Its patent-pending internal teeth clamp onto soft bait paper, minimizing paper displacement for a clean, professional appearance.

### EVO Key for Fast Servicing

To reduce service time, Protecta EVO MOUSE utilizes a single-locking mechanism



that locks automatically when closed and unlocks with the EVO key.

### Goes Where Mice Travel

Triangular-shaped with angled entry holes, The EVO MOUSE fits flush against a wall or in a corner. Suitable for both indoor and outdoor use, its small size makes it ideal to use under pallets, behind appliances or in cupboards. Place bait stations wherever rodents travel - around the perimeter of buildings and along rodent runways.

An added feature is the station's rounded back edge that fits against the curvature of wall coping, designed specifically for food accounts.

Despite its compact size, the EVO MOUSE is a sturdy and reliable bait station built to withstand the toughest conditions. Like all of Bell's

bait stations, the EVO MOUSE is made from 100% recycled, heavy duty injection-molded plastic.

The EVO MOUSE is now available from select European distributors. ■



PROTECTA EVO MOUSE fits in corners or flush against walls where mice travel.



PROTECTA EVO MOUSE unlocks with the handy single-lock EVO key.

# BELL'S RAMPAGE® SAVES SYDNEY PCO TIME AND MONEY

A commercial furniture storage business was providing the good life for a hardy population of Norway rats in southeast Sydney, Australia. Sandwiched between a storage facility for animal food and a chicken feed terminal, food and shelter were easy to come by. Continuous complaints from customers experiencing rodent damage made this not only a rodent problem, but also a big hit on business and reputation.

The infestation was never perceived as out of control, but staff began to notice little signs of a pest invasion. Customers complained of furniture being chewed, and rodent droppings on personal items stored at the facility. Staff noticed rubbish bins rummaged through on a weekly basis. The problem was starting to present itself, so they turned to Rowan Gregson from Pestec Pty Ltd., a 32 year veteran in the pest control industry.

When the team at Pestec took over the account more than a year ago, they were searching for a winning solution to control the problem while supporting their business, and maintaining profits and reputation.

“We originally had 50 bait stations filled with traditional bait surrounding the exterior of the facility,” says Rowan Gregson, manager of Pestec. “While it was a good start, our technicians were noticing the bait being completely eaten on a monthly basis, with no signs of improvement.”

For Gregson, this meant a drain on supplies and an increase in service time for his team, without clear improvement in conditions. Gregson mentioned his dilemma to Andy Knox, Bell Laboratories’ Australasian Business Manager. Knox immediately recommended one of Bell’s rodenticides, Rampage. This Vitamin D<sub>3</sub> rat and mouse bait is in pellet form and kills anticoagulant-resistant rats and mice providing a faster kill, with less bait.

“When I heard traditional baits were constantly being eaten, I realised that Pestec was dealing with a massive rat population,” says Knox.

“Once I knew the extent of the problem, Rampage seemed to be the obvious solution. Rats will only eat a single toxic dose, meaning that the bait is likely to control more rats, gram for gram.”

Rampage bait pellets combine proven palatability with a recognized stop-feed action which reduces the need for extensive and continuous baiting. Ultimately, this results in lower total bait consumption with greater cost savings.

“Once I knew the extent of the problem, Rampage seemed to be the obvious solution.” - Andy Knox

## BEATING THE COMPETITION

The palatability of the bait was a primary concern for Gregson, especially with a plentiful supply of competing food sources surrounding the account.

“The rodents were eating the bait we initially used, but with so much competing food the job wasn’t getting done,” says Gregson.

Rampage was placed in Protecta LP bait stations around the perimeter of the facility.



“Chicken feed and grain were in plentiful supply surrounding the account. To top it off, many customers stored food and pantry items in the facility itself.”

Bell Laboratories manufactures pelleted bait from an advanced formulation that produces a fresh tasting, highly compressed pellet, noted for its proven palatability and long shelf life. The hard pellet satisfies the rodent's desire to gnaw. Rampage pellets are an excellent choice for accounts suffering severe infestations, where food supply is abundant.

Gregson quickly learned that Rampage pellets were able to easily overcome the competition. When rodent carcasses began appearing less than a month after the initial baiting, Gregson saw that full control over the infestation had been achieved.

Gregson says the client is relieved that the rodent problem has ceased. “When we asked the owner about the rodent problem, she was surprised we were inquiring because she has yet to see a single rat since we applied Rampage,” says Gregson. ■





## Tortoises *continued from page 1*

Bell Laboratories, The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota and private partners.

### The Return of the Pinzón Tortoise

Rats have prevented Pinzón Giant Tortoises from successfully reproducing in the wild for nearly 150 years. In order to stave off extinction, conservationists intervened in the 1960s by collecting the few unhatched eggs that remained on the island. The eggs were incubated, hatched and raised until they reached a “rodent-proof” size. Once the tortoises reached an age that they could fend for themselves, conservationists released the young tor-

toises back on the Pinzón islands.

After decades of conservation efforts, the discovery of 10 hatched tortoises in December brings a promise of a successful elimination effort of invasive rodents. In a post on the Galápagos Conservancy blog, James Gibbs, an environmental scientist at State University of New York, details an encounter with the tortoises on a recent trip to Pinzón.

In his account, Gibbs estimates roughly 500 saddleback tortoises are now living on the island, a tripling of the population from six decades ago. While his team only found 10 hatchlings, Gibbs noted that the discovery might be just the tip of the iceberg of what is to come.

“This new bunch of “little guys” is one of the important results of the rat eradication campaign,” notes Gibbs. “Tangible proof that with dedication, hard work, support, and heart, conservation efforts can effect positive change.”

While Gibbs and others were primarily looking for tortoises, they also looked hard for signs of invasive species.



The 2012 Galápagos aerial bait project dispersed 20 tons of Bell's pelleted bait onto the islands below.

“We looked very hard for signs of rodents,” says Gibbs. “But we didn't find droppings or any other sign of rodent activity.”

These results point to a common sentiment amongst conservationists. The growing tortoise population is showing an island in recovery, a reward and validation for the hard work of the Galápagos National Park Service and its collaborators - including Bell. ■



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